

usual fate. Two weeks later a Saw-whet Owl was sent to me, a bird that asked only the hospitality of a night's lodging when the weather was inclement, and was dispatched with true American promptness. I considered the Meadowlark's presence at that time of year unprecedented in this locality, when the mercury often reminded us that we are near neighbors to the North Pole. Was it ever known to winter so far north before?

Is the Solitary Sandpiper (*Totanus solitarius*) known to swim under water? A friend of mine wounded one last summer when it fell from an overhanging rock to a little corner on the lake beach. He jumped down after it thinking it could not possibly get away, when it quickly went under water, a little ribbon of bubbles marking its way far out into the lake. In surprise he waited its reappearance, when it turned and came his way again, landing not far away when (poor bird) it was easily captured. The Spotted Sandpiper was sure to resort to the same tactics when pursued by a Hawk. I am delighted to say it made good its escape, coming up at a distance and putting its pursuer quite off the track. — NELLY HART WOODWORTH, *St. Albans, Vt.*

**Some Rare Birds of Recent Occurrence near Buffalo, N.Y.—*Uria lomvia*.** BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Four stragglers of this species were seen here last fall; two of which were captured. One was shot near Irving on or about December 1, 1894, by 'Jake' Koch, a sportsman of local fame, who had it mounted and placed in the rooms of the Acacia Club in this city. The second was shot in Buffalo harbor by a gunner named Snyder who says that it is one of three that were flying past him at the time. This latter is now in my collection. Both were young birds which probably strayed from the coast via the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

McIlwraith recorded in his 'Birds of Ontario' (p. 38) the capture of nearly fifty of these birds in various parts of the Province late in the fall of 1893, and it would be interesting to know if there were any considerable numbers of stragglers last fall. A short time ago Mr. J. L. Davidson of Lockport informed me that a correspondent of his shot four strange looking Ducks in Jefferson County which possibly were of this species. And recently 'Forest and Stream' was asked to identify a bird shot in the interior of New York State that from the description was evidently a Murre.

***Larus marinus*.** GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—An uncommon winter resident here though probably of regular occurrence. I have a specimen in immature plumage shot on Lake Erie in January, 1894. This winter I saw four adults on February 19 (1895), two on February 20, and one on the 22d. I tried hard to shoot one but was not successful as they were very shy. The Gulls — of which *L. argentatus smithsonianus* is the most common — usually rest quietly on the ice in the morning but appear in numbers in the afternoons to feed upon 'lizards' (*Necturus maculatus*) and bait (minnows) cast away by the fishermen.

***Larus glaucus*.** GLAUCOUS GULL.—One shot on Niagara River, January 29, 1895, which I saw at a taxidermist's shop two days later.

**Sterna tschegrava.** CASPIAN TERN.—A young male which came into my possession Feb. 20, 1895, was shot on Lake Erie near Stony Point (just outside the city limits) late in the fall of 1893 by a gunner named Joseph Kotz.

**Phalacrocorax dilophus.** DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—Although this bird has been taken here before, I met with it last fall for the first time in eight years' experience. Five were shot here, three of which I examined. Two were taken October 11, 1894, and the last was shot from the shore at Stony Point, November 3, 1894.

**Pelecanus erythrorhynchos.** AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN.—One of these large birds, now only casual in the East, was shot on Niagara River near the International Bridge, October 5, 1894, by 'Jake' Koch. It was seen by fishermen and others at the foot of Michigan Street to come in from Lake Erie and fly diagonally over the city toward the river, where it was shot later in the day.

**Crymophilus fulvicaeus.** RED PHALAROPE.—I shot a female which I found wading in a wet pasture in South Buffalo, September 26, 1894. I thought at the time it was the first for Erie County but have since obtained another from Mr. Herman Grieb, taxidermist, which is one of two which he shot on separate occasions near Rattlesnake Island, Niagara River, in October, 1892. Have also seen another, taken here, in the collection of Mr. Edw. Reinecke.

**Macrorhamphus scolopaceus.** LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.—I am indebted to Mr. Grieb for a specimen shot from a flock of *M. griseus* on Strawberry Island, Niagara River, in October, 1892.

**Micropalama himantopus.** STILT SANDPIPER.—Two of these Sandpipers were shot by me on September 16, 1893. They were feeding in company with some Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) in the bottom of the artificial lake in South Park, which was then being excavated.

**Accipiter atricapillus.** AMERICAN GOSHAWK.—On the 11th of March this year (1895) I was waiting with my camera to get a snap at a Great Horned Owl as she returned to her nest. When finally the Owl came it was followed by a Hawk which circled several times over my head just above the tree tops and which I am certain was a Goshawk. My companion had the gun in another part of the woods so I could not shoot it except with the camera. I succeeded, however, in getting it in the same picture with the Owl.

**Melanerpes carolinus.** RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—I saw one at the taxidermist's that was shot at North Collins, Erie Co., in October, 1894.

**Sturnella magna.** MEADOWLARK.—A beautiful albino was shot at Crittenden, this county, on October 4, 1894, and was mounted by Mr. Grieb, taxidermist. The usual brown of the upper parts was of a pale buff color with the pattern of the feather markings indistinctly discernable, while the yellow on the breast was as pure as in an ordinary Lark.

**Ammodramus savannarum passerinus.** GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—

This little Sparrow is a rare summer resident in Western New York. I have been on the lookout for it for six or seven years but without finding it until last spring. On May 2, 1894, I was riding my wheel just outside the city when my ear caught the peculiar note of this species. I stopped to investigate and soon flushed a Grasshopper Sparrow. I returned to the spot next day and secured a specimen and saw five or six others. Later in the season, on and about the first of June, I searched on several occasions for the nest of two pairs which frequented the same field, north of the city. And still later in June I saw one of these Sparrows near Abbott's Corners, and another near North Boston.

**Thryothorus ludovicianus.** CAROLINA WREN.—On the 5th of November, 1894, I was passing through a patch of fallen timber in the woods near Stony Point and stopped to watch some Chickadees. When I started on I was startled by a loud chattering such as I had never heard before. It was fully ten minutes before I caught sight of the author of it, and had the pleasure of adding a Carolina Wren to my collection. I have not seen any record of its capture in Western New York previous to this. It was taken just after a severe gale from the southwest.—JAMES SAVAGE, *Buffalo, N. Y.*

**Two Unique Nesting-sites in and about Camp Buildings in Hamilton County, New York.**—On July 29, 1894, while visiting at Camp Killoquah Forked Lake, Hamilton County, New York, I saw some very suspicious looking straws sticking out from a niche between the logs and behind the framing of a window in the side of the main building of the camp. Upon investigation they proved to be a part of a Junco's nest, which contained four fresh eggs. In the crevice between the two logs just above, there was also an old nest, which had evidently been used for some previous brood. These nests were rather remarkable on account of their close proximity to the door of the camp, through which every one there was wont to go, and beside which, in the course of a day, a good deal of work was done. I learned from the guides that this pair of Juncos had been around there all the spring, and they were still often to be seen picking up crumbs about the kitchen and dining room. The nest was made of cedar bark and grasses, and lined with long deep hairs, which the birds had picked up in the vicinity.

On August 3, 1894, I found a Chimney Swift's nest placed just under the ridge pole of an old log barn and against the side of one of the logs of which it was constructed. Such a position was new to me as I had always thought they built either in chimneys or in hollow trees, and it was additionally interesting from the fact that it was within a foot of an enormous hornet's nest. The five young birds which were nearly fledged were clinging to the bark of the logs in the immediate vicinity and seemed to get on much better with the hornets than I did.—F. H. KENNARD, *Brookline, Mass.*